



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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A People of Vision

A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreilles
and Kootenai Tribes

March 10, 2011

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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Dear Chairman Olson and Energy and Telecommunications Committee,

I am writing to voice the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' (CSKT) support for HB 59.¹ The CSKT currently owns and operates hydrogenation facilities and anticipates acquiring and/or constructing and expanding hydropower facilities in the future.

Montana has extensive hydro resources that already play an important role in the state's energy portfolio. Their expansion offers the opportunity to increase the State's energy health and economic viability and competitiveness. Their expansion could also stimulate construction, jobs, and economic growth.

The existing act seeks to promote alternative energy development but creating incentives for hydroelectric generation expansion makes sense for the same reasons that, for example, wind and solar power generation make sense. It is clean, can be implemented with environmentally sound technologies, creates economic benefits, and by working at existing facilities, it creates these benefits usually without proportionally increasing social or environmental impacts.

HB 59 will increase the incentives throughout the State of Montana to improve and expand the state's plentiful hydrogenation potential. This in turn will, of course, increase the State's energy independence, environmental sustainable energy portfolio, and create economic growth. For these reasons, we urge the Energy Committee to approve the bill and advance it towards becoming law.

The state's energy future, economic growth, and clean energy incentive all will benefit from this Bill. Its passage will benefit the CSKT and the State.

The CSKT are committed to promoting environmentally sound, economically beneficial energy development. Please contact me if the Committee wants further information on this matter. Thank you for your favorable review and vote of HB 59.

Sincerely,


E.T. "Bud" Moran, Chairman

¹ Short title: "Revise Renewable Portfolio Standard To Include Hydropower Expansions." The full title is: An Act Revising The Definition Of "Eligible Renewable Resource" To Include Hydroelectric Project Expansions; Granting The Public Service Commission Rulemaking Authority Over Hydroelectric Project Expansions; Amending Sections 69-3-2003 And 69-3-2006, Mca; And Providing An Immediate Effective Date And An Applicability Date.